(c) whether there is any proposal for extending similar facilities in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Freedom Fighters of All India Standing who do not own a house or flat in Delhi are allotted General Pool accommodation for the bonafide medical treatment of themselves or their spouse(s). These allotments are made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs and those above 70 years are allotted accommodation for lifetime.

(c) and (d) Due to acute shortage of General Pool accommodation, there is no proposal under consideration for extending the above facility in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Recommendation of National Agriculture commission and Vaidyanathan

4246. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHAR-MA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water supply rates for irrigation in the country from 2-3 per cent of the value of agricultural product;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Agriculture Commission and Vjjdyanathan Committee had recommnded 5-10 per cent and 6 per cent reflectively for the purpose; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) According to Vaidyanathan Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water, in no State, Water rates per hectare account for more than three percent of the gross productivity per hectare of irrigated area. Although National Commission on Agriculture (1976) did not recommend any specific water charges, Irrigation Commission (1972) recommended five to twelve percent of gross income, the upper limit being applicable to cash crops. The Vaidyanathan Committee recommended on an average Rs. 310 per hectare as irrigation charges which would still be barely six percent of the gross produce per hectare of the irrigated area.

(c) The Planning Commission set up a Group of Officials (GOO) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission in December, 1992 for studying the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee and suggestions thereon to the Planning Commission to take a final view in the matter. The GOO submitted its reports to the Planning Commission in December, 1994. The copy of the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee alongwtih the recommendations made in the report of the GOO has been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for their consideration and taking further action as deemed necessary.

Modernisation of sone canal project

4247. SHRI AAs MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of WATE RRESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ap proved the first phase modernisation of Sone Canal Project;

(b) if so, details thereof; and